



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

News Release

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STATE REHABILITANTS SHARE STORIES WITH LEGISLATORS

HONOLULU—Rehabilitants of the Department of Human Services (DHS), Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind Division (VRSBD) shared their work success stories with state legislators today at the State Capitol.

Every year the Department's outstanding rehabilitants meet with legislators to talk about their positive experiences in finding employment. This year the seven outstanding rehabilitants for 2003 gathered at conference room 309 to talk about VRSBD's programs. VRSBD offers several educational and work training programs to help individuals with disabilities find meaningful employment.

"We are proud of our rehabilitants and we applaud their efforts in the workplace," DHS Director Lillian Koller said. "Their remarkable stories are great examples of the Department's success at empowering clients through employment to expand their capacity for self-sufficiency, self-determination, independence, quality of life and personal dignity."

The rehabilitants who shared their stories were Clarabell Abian, Celena Contreras, Clayton Enoka, Geraldine Hamada, Damian Look, Cheryl Morton, and Kainoa Pali. A VRSBD counselor introduced each rehabilitant.

Guests included members of the house finance and housing and human concerns committees along with the senate ways and means and human services committees. Family members of the rehabilitants and VRSBD staff also attended the meeting.

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